

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 01919 011641Z
ACTION SS-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5218

S E C R E T BONN 01919

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (MONDALE, WALTER F.)
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH VICE PRESIDENT

1. AIDE TO SPD BUSINESS MANAGER EGON BAHR CONTACTED EMBASSY JAN. 31 TO RELAY FOLLOWING: AT CONCLUSION JAN. 25 DINNER GIVEN BY CHANCELLOR IN HIS HONOR, VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE TALKED BRIEFLY WITH BAHR AND WILLY BRANDT AND REPORTEDLY AGREED TO MEET WITH BAHR IN WASHINGTON FOR "DISCUSSIONS OF MUTUAL INTEREST." ACCORDING TO BAHR AIDE, NSC DIRECTOR BRZEZINSKI ALSO TO PARTICIPATE IN DISCUSSIONS.
2. IF SUITABLE TO VICE PRESIDENT, BAHR WILL ARRIVE WASHINGTON EVENING FEB. 20 WITH TALKS TO TAKE PLACE FEB. 21 AND MORNING FEB. 22. WE POINTED OUT THAT FEB. 21 IS AMERICAN HOLIDAY AND VICE PRESIDENT LIKELY TO BE ENGAGED. WE WERE TOLD BAHR WOULD THEN PLAN TO MAKE HIMSELF AVAILABLE FOR ENTIRE DAY FEB. 22. BAHR WOULD APPRECIATE INDICATION OF TOPICS VICE PRESIDENT WOULD LIKE TO COVER, IN ADDITION TO THOSE MENTIONED DURING POST DINNER CONVERSATION ON JAN. 25.

3. BAHR AIDE ASKED THAT WE INFORM NEITHER FRG EMBASSY NOR FOREIGN OFFICE HERE OF VISIT. BAHR WILL DO SO AFTER
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DATES CONFIRMED.

4. BAHR WOULD BE MOST APPRECIATIVE IF VICE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE OR DEPARTMENT COULD ALSO ARRANGE MEETING WITH WORLD BANK DIRECTOR MCNAMARA DURING PERIOD FEB. 21-22.
5. COMMENT: BAHR, NOW BUSINESS MANAGER OF THE SPD,

HAS A REPUTATION AS THE GADFLY OF GERMAN POLITICS. HE IS BRILLIANT, BRIMMING WITH IDEAS, AND ALWAYS LOOKING

FOR NEW SOLUTIONS TO OLD PROBLEMS. UNFORTUNATELY, HE ALSO HAS A CONSPIRATORIAL SIDE TO HIS NATURE AND HE HAS DEVELOPED A PASSION FOR INDIRECT CONTACTS AS WELL AS FOR TELLING DIFFERENT PEOPLE DIFFERENT THINGS. HE IS, THEREFORE, DEEPLY MISTRUSTED BY MANY GERMAN POLITICAL FIGURES INCLUDING THE SPD'S COALITION PARTNERS AND, IN PARTICULAR, FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER.

6. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT TO RECEIVE BAHR IF THE VICE PRESIDENT HAS DECIDED THAT HE WISHES TO SEE FOREIGN OFFICIALS COMING TO WASHINGTON--AND, IN PARTICULAR, IF HE HAS ALREADY AGREED TO SUCH A MEETING AS BAHR'S PEOPLE TELL US. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT THE MEETING BE AS SHORT AS CAN BE POLITELY JUSTIFIED (ONE HOUR AT THE MAXIMUM) AND THAT THE GERMAN EMBASSY AND FOREIGN MINISTRY BE NOTIFIED IMMEDIATELY ONCE AGREEMENT IS REACHED. THEY SHOULD NOT HEAR IT FROM BAHR. END COMMENT.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: CONFIRMATION THAT VICE PRESIDENT

HAS AGREED TO SEE BAHR AND SUITABILITY OF DATES SUGGESTED.
STOESSEL

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